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Listen: Secret city babies Birth certificates from the Manhattan Project era listed a number, not a place Title:

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Listen: Secret city babies

Birth certificates from the Manhattan Project era listed a number, not a place

In the Lab's beginning, Los Alamos was so secret that in some cases it didn't even exist. Driver's licenses, death certificates, incoming mail – and about 300 birth certificates of the babies who were born here during the Manhattan Project era. These official documents just listed an address: P.O. Box 1663.

Take a look (photo below) at a copy of one of these birth certificates and listen to **Alan Carr**, the senior historian at the Lab's National Security Research Center (NSRC), and **Jim Kunetka**, an book author and expert on Los Alamos's wartime history. They discuss this anomaly in Episode 2 of the Relics podcast series.

Inside the episode

Between 1943 and 1945, hundreds of young couples had moved to Los Alamos. They were among the thousands of scientists, engineers, military members, and other staff creating the world's first atomic bombs, known as the Manhattan Project.

Today, the copy of one of these birth certificates is part of the collections in the NSRC. Here, collections containing millions of nuclear security materials are housed, along with unclassified artifacts. Fascinating finds are down every aisle and around every corner in the NSRC. They include reminders that while people were making history here, they were also living their lives.

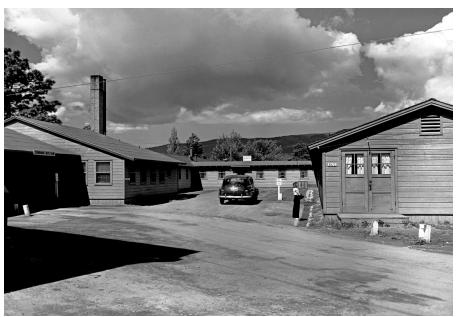
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The birth certificate of a baby girl born in Los Alamos during the Manhattan Project era lists her birthplace only as "P.O. Box 1663." Official documents from 1943 – 1945 used this number rather than name Los Alamos, in an effort to not draw attention to the town and its secret wartime mission. A copy of this birth certificate is part of the collections of the Lab's National Security Research Center. Personal information has been redacted.



https://drive.google.com/file/d/1w9LEp5AI7KAqVXiWa6Cknb3x5PeqJt7c/view?usp=sharing A look inside the reception area of the Los Alamos hospital in the 1940s. The town's facilities were constructed quickly as the population swelled from just a boys' school and a few homesteads to thousands of staff and their families.



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This photo from the National Security Research Center shows the Los Alamos hospital in 1948,
three years after World War II ended with the successful development of the world's first
atomic weapons. The bombs were created at Los Alamos from 1943 – 1945.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13cs3L557ibpVqNOymqZIKsjM2qSU70hs/view?usp=sharing This photo from the National Security Research Center shows a nurse and her patient at the Los Alamos hospital in 1946, not long after World War II ended. Thousands of scientists, engineers, other staff and their families had moved to Los Alamos in support of the Manhattan Project. This was the U.S. government's clandestine mission to create the world's first atomics weapons to help end World War II.